

Docket number 00-REN-1194 2006 Renewable Energy Investment Plan
Dear CEC Decision Makers,

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00-REN-1194
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I am the first and so far the only completed applicant to the PBI program. I also have sold and installed over a dozen small wind turbines, mostly in LA County.

I understand that Incentive Program was oversubscribed so you decided to cut rates. Wind Power was not oversubscribed, in fact it is just emerging. It has not gone through the economies of scale price reductions that PV has nor has it been accepted by local governments the way PV has. Yet the CEC policies treated it the same way. Solar is established, Wind Power is not. Wind Power is still trying to emerge. Please support wind power. It works. In windy areas it works better than PV, both for \$/kWhs in peak periods and more than double in \$/kWh compared to PV.

Please support wind up to 50kW.

Please allow Wind Power to participate in the PBI program.

Please increase the regular incentive back to 2002 levels.

Please extend the deadline for Wind Power reservations to 18 months.

The deadline extension is because most counties require a Conditional Use Permit for Wind Power or the customer needs to do a wind study, both of which take time. **It is a huge and unnecessary purchase barrier to require a home owner to make an investment in a Wind Power study or Conditional User Permit when he is not sure if he can get a CEC incentive.** Why does PV new construction have an 18 month reservation period? It's because the CEC wants to eliminate the same type of purchase barrier for PV. Why does not Wind? Because the CEC has ignored this issue on several occasions and is not willing to be fair with Wind Power.

LA County like most counties charges property tax on wind turbines, but PV is exempt. Why? Because not enough people have complained and it is not a big enough issue. Wind Power needs to be supported so it can overcome the property tax issue. It has not emerged as much as PV, not even close.

Wind Power needs a break because unlike PV Wind turbines require Conditional Use Permits. Counties are not used to processing the permits and they are still playing-it-safe and imposing more restrictions than necessary. LA County will loosen up it's strangle hold as more people get used to seeing them. I have talked to several of them on several occasions. I know what I am talking about. You need to support wind power so that over-regulating counties will lighten up in time. You do not need a CUP for a swimming pool, even in LA County. If wind Power emerges it could be as easy as a pool.

During the last few years we watched the unfair treatment of wind power because compared to PV with similar amounts of kWh/year, the PV incentive went down less than about \$800 every 6 months, but the Bergey 10kW went down \$1,490. That is unfair. By slanting the incentive toward PV and away from wind you have made it so that PV is almost always a better choice than wind even in the windiest places in California. Did you intend to cripple the CA Wind Power business this way? Probably not, please undo it.

Wind Power could emerge if you let it.

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